

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Claims 9-17 and 23-32** are pending.

**Claims 1-8** are canceled herein.

**Claims 18-22** were previously canceled.

**Claims 13 and 25** are amended.

**Claims 26-32** are newly added.

1-8. **(Canceled).**

9. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus for protecting and retaining a wire, the apparatus comprising:

a first foot portion having at least one aperture therethrough;

a second foot portion having at least two apertures therethrough;

an interconnecting portion connecting the first foot portion to the second foot portion wherein the first foot portion, the second foot portion and the interconnecting portion form a passage beneath the interconnecting portion and between the first foot portion and the second foot portion adapted to receive the wire and retain the wire between the interconnecting portion and a mounting structure;

at least three apertures through the interconnecting portion substantially axially parallel to and aligned with the apertures of the first and second foot portions; and

at least one fastener adapted to mount the apparatus to the mounting structure, wherein the apparatus is adapted to prevent the at least one fastener from abutting the wire.

10. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the first foot portion has only one aperture therethrough.

11. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the first foot portion, the second foot portion and the interconnecting portion form a single body.

12. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the at least one fastener is integrated within the single body and extends outward therefrom.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising ~~at least one of protruding grips and grooves~~ positioned on outer edges of the single body, the grips protruding from the outer edges of the body or being grooves formed in the edges of the body.

14. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 10, wherein at least one pair of apertures from the first and second foot portions is sized to accommodate the at least one fastener, the at least one fastener being of a standardized size.

15. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising identifying indicia.

16. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus for protecting and retaining a wire, the apparatus comprising:

a first foot portion having at least one aperture therethrough;

a second foot portion having at least two apertures therethrough;

an interconnecting portion connecting the first foot portion to the second foot portion wherein the first foot portion, the second foot portion and the interconnecting portion form a passage beneath the interconnecting portion and between the first foot portion and the second foot portion adapted to receive the wire and retain the wire between the interconnecting portion and a mounting structure;

at least three apertures through the interconnecting portion corresponding to and aligned with the apertures of the first and second foot portions, wherein the first foot portion has only one aperture therethrough;

at least one fastener adapted to mount the apparatus to the mounting structure, wherein the apparatus is adapted to prevent the at least one fastener from abutting the wire; and

identifying indicia comprising information relating to the at least one fastener, wherein the at least one fastener is a standardized size.

17. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus for protecting and retaining a wire, the apparatus comprising:

a first foot portion having at least one aperture therethrough;

a second foot portion having at least two apertures therethrough;

an interconnecting portion connecting the first foot portion to the second foot portion wherein the first foot portion, the second foot portion and the interconnecting portion form a passage beneath the interconnecting portion and between the first foot portion and the second foot portion adapted to receive the wire and retain the wire between the interconnecting portion and a mounting structure;

at least three apertures through the interconnecting portion corresponding to and aligned with the apertures of the first and second foot portions, wherein the first foot portion has only one aperture therethrough; and

at least one fastener adapted to mount the apparatus to the mounting structure, wherein the apparatus is adapted to prevent the at least one fastener from abutting the wire, and

wherein the at least one fastener is at least one staple.

18-22. (Canceled).

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the first foot portion, the second foot portion and the interconnecting portion form a single body.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the at least one fastener is integrated within the single body and extends outward therefrom.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising ~~at least one of protruding grips and grooves~~ positioned on outer edges of the single body, the grips protruding from the outer edges of the body or being grooves formed in the edges of the body.

26. (New) A retainer comprising:

a molded polymeric body comprising:

first and second foot portions at opposed ends of the body, the first foot portion having at least one aperture and the second foot portion having at least two apertures;

an interconnecting portion between the first and second foot portions, the interconnecting portion and foot portions define a passage beneath the interconnecting portion and between the first foot portion and the second foot portion adapted to receive a wire and retain the wire between the interconnecting portion and a mounting structure to which the retainer can be secured; and

indicia on the body relating fastener sizes to the apertures; and

a staple received in an aperture of the first foot portion and an aperture of the second foot portion, for securing the retainer to the mounting structure.

27. (New) The retainer of claim 26, wherein the polymeric body has a first side, which is closest to the mounting structure when the retainer is secured to the mounting structure, and a second side, which is furthest from the mounting structure when the retainer is mounted to the mounting structure, and

wherein a thickness between the first and second sides is greater for the first and second foot portions than for the interconnecting portion.

28. (New) The retainer of claim 26, further comprising:

at least three apertures through the interconnecting portion corresponding to and aligned with the apertures of the first and second foot portions; and

at least one of protruding grips and grooves disposed on outer edges of the opposed ends of the polymeric body,

wherein the indicia are disposed on a top surface of the polymeric body and identify at least one of a size of the staple and a size of the retainer on which the indicia are placed, and

wherein the staple is integrated into the polymeric body, such that prongs of the staple extend outward from the polymeric body.

29. (New) The retainer of claim 26, further comprising at least three apertures through the interconnecting portion corresponding to and aligned with the apertures of the first and second foot portions.

30. (New) The retainer of claim 26, further comprising at least one of protruding grips and grooves disposed on outer edges of the opposed ends of the polymeric body.

31. (New) The retainer of claim 26, wherein the indicia are disposed on a top surface of the polymeric body and identify at least one of a size of the staple and a size of the retainer on which the indicia are placed.

32. (New) The retainer of claim 26, wherein the staple is integrated into the polymeric body, such that prongs of the staple extend outward from the polymeric body.